

CB-1170

Petition for Exemption from CC Requirements Sheffield Entertainment Television

To: Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Attention: Disability Rights Office, Room 3-B431
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

DEC 13 2011

FCC Mail Room

Gracie's Friends (TV Show)

1800 Eastwood Road

#130

Wilmington, NC 28403

Phone: 910-232-9707

shefcom@aol.com

Gracie's Friends is also on Face Book

December 1st 2011

RE: Economically Burdensome Exemption from Closed Captioning Requirements

Gracie's Friends is a Public Service Television show that is a 501 c3 corp (Pending approval) that helps find homeless and shelter animals forever homes.

We have written, produced, directed and aired fourteen (14) Thirty minute TV shows on Fox Wilmington (WSFX, Wilmington, North Carolina).

The cost of captioning this show exceeds the entire budget of each show. (at this point almost all of the cast and crew are donating their time and talent to help produce this show) It takes almost 8 hours to transcribe the dialogue and edit it into the show. We are currently paying for our air time and for our show editor. The cost of each show is running at a historic low of \$1550.00 per show. (The highest paid individual is the editor and the assistant editor who transcribes the show.) The salary for the rest of the crew including the Host and Hostess is deferred pending donations and grants.

The impact on Sheffield Entertainment Television is staggering as Sheffield is for all practical purposes a one man band (Bud Dowdey) who created the show and owns all rights to it. This show is a weekly one off show as it will only be aired one time on one station in the market. Each week we highlight a new group of homeless dogs and cats and recently we were asked to cover a story about stranded water animals (beached Mammals, fish, etc) Since all of the operation is coordinated by one person it is becoming almost impossible to continue to produce this show with the CC requirement.

I would be happy to provide you with the bills from the network and copies of each show to determine their overall merit. They are also educational in nature as interviews with vets, animal trainers and groomers provide valuable information to prospective adoptors.


The financial status of the owner and creator of the show is simple. I am a self – employed person (69 years young) who runs a small video production company with only a couple of 1099 freelance employees. My income from Sheffield Entertainment this year will be well under 25,000 and I am on a small Social security pension at this time of \$880.00 per month. Currently all we get from Gracie's Friends is small weekly donations. We need all the help we can get to keep this show on the air and hopefully to provide a small income to the cast and crew.

The removal of the CC requirement from Gracie's Friends will mean that I will be able to keep the show produced and on the air providing jobs to a small crew and cast. Even though at this time most of their salary is deferred.

We will always continue to add CC for the information on the specific animal (such as the name or shelter # of the animal and the number to call if someone wants to adopt the animal)

Our research has indicated that the cost of a small software program for simple CC is over \$2500.00. I have discussed this problem with Fox (WSFX) in Wilmington, North Carolina and they will not CC the program for us. The sponsorships we have in place at this time only cover the air time and a small portion of the crew fees. We are constantly searching for new sponsors and donors but in this current economy it is a useless effort.

I Remain Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bud Dowdey', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bud Dowdey
Writer, Producer, Director
Gracie's Friends
shefcom@aol.com

I Carl King Dowdey, II (Bud) do swear and confirm that the above petition is true and faithful as I understand it.
